

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed June 7, 2004 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-10, 18-27, and 35-36 are canceled. Claims 11, 13, 14, 28, 30 and 31 have been amended. Claims 11-17 and 28-34 are pending in this application, with claims 11 and 28 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action mailed June 7, 2004, claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-15, 18-20, 23-25, 28-32, and 35-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over WO 97/44943 (Suominen) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,131,040 (Knuutila) and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,887,249 (Schmid).

Claims 16 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Suominen, Knuutila, Schmid, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,880 (Alanara).

Claims 17 and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Suominen, Knuutila, Schmid, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,088,594 (Kingdon).

Before discussing the cited prior art and the Examiner's rejections of the claims in view of that art, a brief summary of the present invention is appropriate. The present invention provides a method and system for modification of intelligent network service data or service parameters in a telecommunication system comprising an intelligent network (page 4, lines 9-11). As described in the background section of the present application, operators of mobile telephone networks commonly provide a wide variety of services which are available at the option of a subscriber, such that the subscriber can decide if and when to use each service (page 2, lines 9-14). Furthermore, intelligent network systems use a number of parameters that are preferably modified directly by the subscriber without requiring action by the service provider (page 2, lines 14-17).

According to the invention, the intelligent network service parameter record to be modified is identified by the calling subscriber number, i.e., the A-number, or the content of the text message in the text signaling (page 8, line 18 to page 9, line 1). Since the record to be modified may be identified by the A-number of the call, the present invention teaches that the parameters of an existing subscriber record may be modified. More specifically, the present invention allows a subscriber to modify service parameters of an existing subscriber record by sending short message service text messages using a mobile telephone (page 9, lines 8-12).

According to the amended claims, an existing subscriber record is modified in accordance with a service parameter that is transmitted over a mobile telephone network from terminal equipment to a gateway which connects the mobile telephone network to an intelligent network. More specifically, each of the independent claims 11 and 28 has been amended and now recites “transmitting the service parameter, as a text message by means of the terminal device, to the gateway” and “transmitting the converted service parameter from the gateway to the service data point for modifying the existing subscriber record in accordance with the converted service parameter”.

Suominen discloses a system for managing subscriber related services within a telecommunication network. According to Suominen, a computer 4 is connected to server platform 1 by an internet-network 7 or other corresponding network 7' (see Fig. 1; and page 4, line 35 to page 5, line 4 of Suominen). A graphic presentation is made for the services coupled to the subscriber and a service menu, from which the subscriber may select for himself extra services (see page 5, lines 9-15). Suominen further states that the graphic presentation is a www-page (see page 5, lines 15-16). Thus, Suominen discloses modification of parameters via the internet. On page 6, lines 15-25, Suominen also discloses that instead of the internet, any graphical interface may be

used. Suominen further discloses that another corresponding network 7' can be used but does not provide any specific examples of such other networks.

Accordingly, Suominen specifically teaches that a graphical user interface is used (see page 2, lines 23-25) and that a user selects the service to be coupled from a menu on the graphical interface (page 3, lines 24-26; and page 6, lines 9-13). Since Suominen teaches that the service is selected from a menu, Suominen fails to teach or suggest "transmitting the service parameter, as a text message by means of the terminal device, to the gateway", as is expressly recited in each of independent claims 11 and 28.

Moreover, since Suominen teaches the modification of parameters using the internet, Suominen fails to teach or suggest that the network 7 or 7' is or may be a digital mobile telephone network. Accordingly, Suominen additionally fails to teach or suggest "transmitting the converted service parameter from the gateway to the service data point for modifying the existing subscriber record in accordance with the converted service parameter", as is now expressly recited in each of independent claims 11 and 28.

Knuutila discloses a wireless communication device to which a plurality of different adapter units 4a, 4b, 4n, may be connected, wherein each of the adapters is connectable to a different data transmission network. Accordingly, Knuutila merely discloses that a wireless communication device is connectable to a plurality of different data transmission networks. The combined disclosures of Suominen and Knuutila are thus devoid of any teaching or suggestion for "transmitting the service parameter, as a text message by means of the terminal device, to the gateway" and "transmitting the converted service parameter from the gateway to the service data point for modifying the existing subscriber record in accordance with the converted service parameter", as expressly recited in each of independent claims 11 and 28.

Schmid discloses a method and apparatus for remotely establishing a cellular service account for a cellular telephone. Fig. 4 of Schmid discloses the steps for establishing an account. According to Schmid, a radio telephone 30 may initiate a process for establishing a cellular service account in a cellular system (see col. 6, lines 1-4, of Schmid). The cellular system generates prompts for input of account information and sends the prompts to the radio telephone using an SMS (col. 7, lines 46-52). The radio telephone answers the prompts by generating an SMS page including the account information in the cellular system (col. 7, lines 63-66). The cellular system then stores the account information in the cellular system (col. 8, lines 1-2). The cellular system may send a subsequent SMS page to the radio telephone with phone configuration parameters and the phone can be programmed in response thereto (col. 8, lines 34-47). As indicated at col. 11, lines 7-12 of Schmid, the process described in Schmid is intended for the first usage of the radio telephone. Accordingly, Schmid fails to teach or suggest “transmitting the converted service parameter from the gateway to the service data point for modifying the existing subscriber record in accordance with the converted service parameter”, as is expressly recited in each of independent claims 11 and 28.

Furthermore, Fig. 1 of Schmid shows that the cellular system in which the account is activated is the same mobile telecommunication system to which the radio telephone is connected. Accordingly, the process disclosed by Schmid operates within a single network. Therefore, Schmid also fails to teach or suggest “transmitting the service parameter, as a text message by means of the terminal device, to the gateway”.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 11 and 28 are patentably distinct and allowable over Suominen, Knuutila, and Schmid.

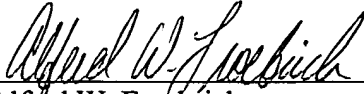
Dependent claims 12-17, 27-34, and 39-40, each being dependent on one of independent claims 11 and 28, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claim 11 and 28.

New dependent claims 39 and 40 are added to recite that the text message contains fixed format information, thereby allowing a user to send a direct message to the intelligent network to modify the parameter without having to respond to cumbersome prompts. Support for these limitations is found at page 12, lines 5-18, which describes that the short message contains fixed-format information for modifying the service parameter. Such fixed-format information is not required to be input to a prompt and can be sent directly to the intelligent network when the subscriber decides to activate or deactivate a particular service option. Both Suominen and Schmid disclose that prompts are sent from a network to which a user responds by inputting or selecting data (see page 6, lines 9-14 of Suominen and col. 3, lines 20-37 of Schmid). As stated above Knuutila merely discloses that a wireless communication device may include a plurality of adapters for communicating with various networks. Accordingly, dependent claims 39-40 are allowable over Suominen, Knuutila, and Schmid for at least these additional reasons.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance, and early notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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